

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 NASA-04 EB-11 SS-20 NSC-07 PA-04

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EUR/SOV:WDYESS

H:EBURKE (SUB)

NASA: DWILLIAMS (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN US UR

SUBJ: AEROFLOT INAUGURAL FLIGHT WASHINGTON-MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 3799, MOSCOW 3885 (NOT SENT LENINGRAD)

1. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD DEPARTMENT MARCH 20 THAT INAUGURAL RPT INAUGURAL WITH VIP PASSENGERS IS DEFINITELY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5. EMBASSY UNABLE TO EXPLAIN CONTRARY INFORMATION GIVEN TO EMBASSY MOSCOW BY SOVIET MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (MOSCOW 3799). IF INDECISION RATHER THAN INCORRECT INFORMATION IS INVOLVED, THIS MAY BE DUE TO APPARENT FAILURE OF SOME AMERICAN GUESTS TO RESPOND AS YET TO INVITATIONS.

2. NASA RECEIVED LETTER SIGNED BY SOVIET EMBASSY DCM VORONTSOV EXTENDING INVITATION IN NAME OF SOVIET MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION BUGAYEV TO SKYLAB I CREW TO PARTICIPATE IN INAUGURAL FLIGHT ON APRIL 5. LETTER INDICATED THAT
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IF MEMBERS OF SKYLAB I CREW WERE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT

INVITATION, OTHER SKYLAB ASTRONAUTS WERE INVITED IN THEIR PLACE.

3. SKYLAB I ASTRONAUTS DR. JOSEPH KERWIN AND PAUL WEITZ AND THEIR WIVES HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATION. THIRD SKYLAB I ASTRONAUT CHARLES CONRAD IS NO LONGER WITH NASA AND WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN INAUGURAL FLIGHT. HOWEVER, A THIRD

ASTRONAUT FROM ONE OF THE OTHER SKYLAB CREWS MAY ACCEPT INVITATION. DEPARTMENT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA HAS ACCEPTED.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED SOVIET EMBASSY FOR COMPLETE PASSENGER LIST FOR INAUGURAL FLIGHT AS WELL AS PLANS IN MOSCOW FOR VIPS AND WILL CABLE EMBASSY MOSCOW AND CONGEN LENINGRAD AS SOON AS INFORMATION RECEIVED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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